



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Boehner Welcomes Gephardt Comments Urging Fiscal Restraint

The chairman of the House-Senate panel negotiating the final details of President Bush's education reform bill today welcomed comments by House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-MO) that suggest the Democrat leader is willing to work with Republicans to ensure that federal education dollars are spent responsibly.

Gephardt's remarks on fiscal restraint, made on NBC's *Meet the Press* yesterday, come at a particularly critical time for the President's reform package. The President's plan would streamline federal education programs while providing a significant increase for programs proven that have been proven to work. But the Senate-passed version would increase funding while creating dozens of new, unproven programs.

Gephardt said Congress should review the entire federal budget -- including education and health care specifically -- to ensure federal dollars are being used as efficiently as possible. "You can go down the whole list -- education, health care," Gephardt said. "You can go across the board."

"The Minority Leader's comments are a pleasant surprise. It's essential that we send President Bush a final education bill that streamlines bureaucracy and targets funding increases to programs that work," said John Boehner, chairman of the House Education & the Workforce Committee. "It is also critical that we emphasize reform, not just resources, to ensure that funding is targeted to those disadvantaged students who most need our help."

Message of the Day

President Bush's education reform plan streamlines bureaucracy and targets funding increases to programs that work.

- ❑ *Funding increases should be targeted to students who need help the most -- not used to create a host of new programs.*
- ❑ *No Child Left Behind provides additional flexibility by consolidating programs and granting greater flexibility and decision-making authority to state and local officials.*
- ❑ *The President's plan bridges the gap between educational research and the classroom to implement proven, scientifically based approaches to provide kids with basic skills, including his Reading First initiative.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- In order to focus funding on what works, H.R. 1 reduces the overall number of ESEA programs from 55 to 47; the Senate increases the overall number from 55 to 89 (*source: Congressional Research Service*).
- The House version authorizes \$22.9 billion for federal ESEA programs in FY 2002, while the Senate bill authorizes \$31.7 billion for ESEA. (This amount doesn't include the Senate adopted amendment to fully fund IDEA over 10 years and make it a mandatory program, which would cost \$98 billion over five years).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Congress needs to enact education reform legislation now. Reform must include annual state reading and math tests and strong accountability -- consistent gains made in states such as North Carolina and Texas tell us that. ... To truly improve our schools, every community must not only demand that all children learn the skills they need to succeed and prosper, but also that schools measure progress and regularly report the results to parents and the public." The Oregonian editorial, August 18, 2001